

Gilbert, Karen

From: Darci Jones <darci.jones.lcsw@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, March 23, 2018 10:25 AM
To: Gilbert, Karen
Subject: Medicaid cuts comment

Hello Karen,

Thank you for your patience. Below is my comment pertaining to the medicaid cuts. Please let me know if this suffices and once again thanks for all of your dedication.

To the Legislative Fiscal Committee,

I am writing out of deep concern about the impending Medicaid cuts. MT consistently suffers from one of the highest suicide rates in the nation, demonstrating a need for an increase in mental health services rather than a decrease. I am increasingly worried about the way our society treats both children and those with mental health disorders. As a social work practitioner in Lake County, I am aware of the detriment these cuts will have on both children and adults seeking assistance to decrease symptoms they are experiencing associated with mental health disorders and trauma they have been victims of. While I understand there is a budget deficit these cuts appear to be consistently on the backs of our future generations and those who already have large hurdles to overcome. In addition, the change to 10 and 12 sessions is not based on therapeutic evidence of the needed time for interventions to be successful, this allotment of time is not even a bandaid for the individual and families. Therapy is not a process that can be sped up it takes time to work through traumas that often impact people for numerous years. It should also be noted that the majority of people I get the pleasure to work with suffer from Post Traumatic Stress Disorder, their symptoms result from another person violating their freedoms or from military related experiences. I beg of you to take people into consideration and change these draconian cuts by funding medicaid services for both adults and our future generation.

With much respect,

Darci Jones, LCSW
(406) 212 - 7023

Legislative Finance Committee
March 12 & 13, 2018
Exhibit 27
